

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Pete Bogle in the Council Chambers, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: **Barbara Perry, Pete Bogle, Bruce Wilson, Johnny Safrit, Preston Sale, Cindee Bridges, Michael Lippard, and Bill Safrit**

Absent: **James Donaldson, Emma Jean Hawley, and Suzette Davis**

Staff: **Lynn Raker, Janice Bodford**

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Reviewed and approved the financial report for February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Art in Public Places: Robert Crum, professional artist in Salisbury, presented a proposal for a public art project on the west side of the 100 block of North Depot Street. The concrete wall currently has iron stains on it because it once had a chainlink fence on it. It now has a steel fence. It is on City-owned property and is 31 feet from the corner of the Tractor Building to an 8' walkway and the remainder of the wall is 81 feet long. The wall is about 4 1/2 feet high at the Tractor Building and because of the slope in the sidewalk ends at about 5 feet 9 inches and connects to 205 E Council Street. Mr. Crum does not recommend painting the wall because of the sun and weather. Ice and rain would quickly erode whatever is put there. Paint does not hold up well to light and outdoor weather. He is recommending a mosaic tile composition. Ceramic tile can withstand the elements and would have low maintenance. It is also durable and easy to clean off graffiti. The biggest maintenance issue would be the replacement of tiles that are pried loose. Mr. Crum has proposed a transportation theme for the project. The mosaic concentrates on early 20th century transportation in order to include The Depot, a steam engine, and a 1910 Buick. Mr. Crum projects about 4 months to do sketchbook drawings, drawings to scale and then "cartoons" which is a drawing the exact size of the wall. It will take an estimated 2-3 months to lay the tile on the wall.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$25,000. The Robertson Foundation has expressed interest in the project. The Robertson Foundation's deadline for this year is April 2, 2004. Unless the application can be prepared before the April 2nd deadline, it will be another year before we can apply for funding again. CAC unanimously passed a motion to endorse the Depot Street Mosaic Project to enhance the wall in the 100 block of North Depot Street as submitted by Robert Crum

on March 3rd, 2004 subject to obtaining funding from grants and donations and will present it at the next meeting of City Council for approval.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee: No report.

Landscaping: Johnny reported that he had a response from Darrell Blackwelder regarding the maintenance of the pocket park on Lincolnton that the Master Gardeners do not normally do maintenance work only educational type gardens for the general public. They have dropped all the maintenance projects because of poor support by the Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners would be glad to meet with citizens to help them coordinate a maintenance program. The City will do the mowing. CAC should contact the Halpin's across the street from the park to see if they know other neighbors who would be interested in maintaining the park.

Landscape of the Month awards will start up again next month.

Municipal Service District and Innes Street Improvement Grants: All of the grant money has been awarded. City Council did not have to approve any of the grants as none of the amounts were over \$5,000.

Awards Committee: Barbara thanked all CAC members for their help with the awards luncheon. It was a very successful event. Many people have commented that they can't believe we did it all ourselves. The food was excellent. The landscape-of-the-month winners were very appreciative for being invited and being recognized. We were \$1,000 under budget and were still able to contribute all the dishes to the Park Ave. Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS: Lynn briefed the commission on the Farmer's Market. The farmers are meeting tomorrow morning and will be looking at the proposed site in the parking lot beside the Rowan Health and Fitness Center, which is also used by the fitness center. Ken Weaver is supportive of this idea. The parking lot will need some improvements. It is proposed to close 2 of 4 existing driveways and add a center driveway on S Main Street. The tents will be provided for a consistent appearance. There will be room for 21 vendors with a possibility for overflow in the lower area. The Farmer's Market will be scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, which are the slowest days for the health and fitness center. It is currently designed for farmers within a 50-mile radius. Parking lot improvements include curb and gutter for the tree island, planting trees, and lights. They are meeting today to draw up some guidelines. If approved it would open in May.

Bruce asked for an update on the corner lot at Lee and Fisher Streets. A proposal was presented to HPC for approval of trees and grass planting. With the current detour increasing traffic, it would be good to do something there. Lynn will remind them that CAC would like them to go ahead with that project.

NEW BUSINESS: Nominations were taken for positions on the CAC board. Emma Jean Hawley has chosen not to come back for her second term. Barbara Perry will be submitted for reappointment. Pete Bogle's term ends the end of March. Leonard Alexander and Greta Connor were nominated to present to City Council for consideration.

Spring Spruce-up is scheduled for April 26-30 and we will invite the Neighborhood Leaders to the next community appearance meeting.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.